

Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

12:00 PM March 17, 2022

Minutes

Location: Meeting was recorded and posted online [here](#).

Subcommittee Members Present: Peter Walke, Rich Cowart, Johanna Miller, Jared Duval, Christine Donovan, Bram Kleppner, Gina Campoli, Chris Company, TJ Poor, Kelly Klein.

State Agency Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, ANR; Marian Wolz, ANR; Megan O'Toole, VT DEC.

12:00 PM Welcome / Opening Remarks

- Co-chairs reviewed agenda. Request from staff to add item to agenda to discuss updates to subcommittee membership.
 - Proposal to add Andrea Wright to the subcommittee as an official representative from the Agency of Transportation. Subcommittee members agreed to bring that proposal to the Steering Committee at their next meeting.
 - Staff reviewed the proposal from Climate Council Youth Representative Iris Hsaing to include a youth member on each subcommittee. Staff noted this proposal would be brought forward to the Steering Committee for approval. Subcommittee members noted support for this proposal.
- [2/17 Minutes](#) approved as drafted

12:05 PM Legislative Update

- Subcommittee members and staff provided updates on CAP relevant bills in the legislature.
- Clean Heat Standard (CHS)
 - The CHS passed on a second reading vote in the House with a favorable vote of 96-44 on March 16th. There is a final third reading, after that the bill will move on to the Senate for consideration.
- Weatherization
 - The \$80M ARPA proposal is moving forward (\$45M for the Office of Economic Opportunity for low-income weatherization / \$35M for the Public Service Department for moderate income weatherization). \$20M proposed for panel upgrades was also included; all recommendations discussed on the House side, those are yet to be discussed on the Senate side.
 - Concern raised that there is an expectation that the CHS will provide additional funding for weatherization after ARPA funding ends; need to have a discussion around that potential misconception as the CHS will likely not provide funding apace for the ramp-up needed for weatherization.
- Environmental Justice Bill
 - The Environmental Justice Bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the committee has requested a fiscal note from JFO on the bill. It is

unclear currently if the financial resources are going to be available to support the full scope of the bill, may need to be refined to match available funding.

- Others
 - Staff provided updates on the proposals included in the Transportation bill related to climate initiatives.

12:20 PM Transportation Task Group

- Task Group members provided an update on the work of the Transportation Task Group:
 - Level-set Webinar will be hosted on April 1st at 12pm
 - Policy-specific Webinars are being planned as well
- RFP Development
 - Staff have applied for a \$100K grant from the US Climate Alliance for additional transportation analysis:
 - 1) Grant would support analysis for Advanced Clean Cars II and Clean Trucks on how far those rules will get the state towards meeting GHG reduction requirements.
 - 2) Grant would also support analysis for what is needed in addition (regulatory or policy) to support meeting the transportation emissions reductions requirements.
- Staff provided an update on rulemaking for Advanced Clean Cars II and Clean Trucks

1:15 PM Biomass Task Group

- Co-chairs provided an update on the work of the Biomass Task Group. Task Group is working on narrowing down the scope of the Task Group based on the initial tabled actions from the Climate Action Plan.
- Subcommittee discussed an approach to recommend to the Biomass Task Group on how to proceed in examining the tabled biomass actions from the Climate Action Plan.
 - Subcommittee recommends that the Biomass Task Group has discussed and recommends position of developing and understanding deeper breadth of issues before diving into policy recommendations.
 - If disagreement exists on how to proceed at the task group level, recommendation is to bring that to the Council on how best to proceed.
 - Important to consider the uses of biomass, the forest economic, forest ecology, human impacts, and lifecycle emissions in discussions.
 - TJ Poor, Peter Walke, and Liz Miller will formulate thoughts on behalf of the subcommittee to share with the biomass task group.

1:49 PM Subcommittee members raised support for recommending that the Steering Committee dedicate the additional \$100K remaining in the budget to the lifecycle analysis.

1:50 PM Public Comment

- Steve Crowley provided public comment
- Annette Smith provided public comment

2:00 PM Next Steps and Adjourn

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